

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /073 W
-----251202 041075 /10

R 250925Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9602
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 4350

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO:
SENT ACTION BANGKOK INFO: VIENTIANE ON FEB. 24, 1977
FROM: AMCONSUL UDORN

QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L UDORN 0045

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, LA, TH
SUBJECT: LAO RESISTANCE SITUATION

1. RECENT ACCOUNTS IN THE BANGKOK PRESS, INCLUDING THE NATION
REVIEW FEBRUARY 17, BANGKOK POST FEBRUARY 21, AND SIENG POUNGCHON,
THE DAILY TIME, AND BAN MUANG, FEBRUARY 23, HAVE REPORTED INCREASED
FIGHTING IN LAOS BETWEEN RIGHT-WING RESISTANCE ELEMENTS AND
PATHET LAO (PL) TROOPS. THESE PRESS ACCOUNTS, DRAWN ALMOST
ENTIRELY ON REFUGEE SOURCES, ARE GENERALLY PFRAGMENTARY IN NATURE,
SOMETIMES CONTRADICTORY, AND PRONE TO EXAGGERATION. WE ARE
PREPARING DETAILED ASSESSMENT OF RESISTANCE SITUATION TO BE SENT
SOONEST SEPTEL. IN MEANTIME, WE OFFER FOLLOWING BRIEF OBSERVATIONS:

(A) RESISTANCE ACTIVITY APPEARS TO BE TAKING PLACE IN VARIETY
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OF LOCATIONS IN LAOS AT PRESENT TIME, RANGING FROM SAYABOURI
PROVINCE IN WESTERN PART OF COUNTRY TO LONG TIENG-PHU BIA
AREA NORTH OF VIENTIANE TO SAVANNAKHET AND PAKSE IN SOUTHERN
PANHANDLE. THERE IS ALSO SOME EVIDENCE OF INCREASED
RESISTANCE ACTIVITY IN AREAS SURROUNDING VIENTIANE AND PAKSANE.
SCALE OF ARMED RESISTANCE TO COMMUNIST AUTHORITIES STILL SEEMS
TO BE LIMITED PRIMARILY TO SMALL SCALE UNIT (COMPANY SIZE OR LOWER)

ACTIVITY. THERE IS NO INDICATION RESISTANCE ELEMENTS HAVE SUFFICIENT MILITARY STRENGTH TO MOUNT "BIG OFFENSIVE" AS SUGGESTED IN BANGKOK POST FEBRUARY 21.

(B) RESISTANCE UNITS STILL SUFFER FROM LACK OF SUFFICIENT WEAPONS, AMMUNITION, AND SUPPLIES. CAPABLE LEADERSHIP ALSO APPEARS SCARCE. RESISTANCE MOVEMENTS AS A WHOLE APPEARS UNORGANIZED WITH COORDINATION BETWEEN RESISTANCE GROUPS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY MINIMAL OR NON-EXISTANT. THERE ARE DEFINITE SIGNS OF INCREASING SUPPORT FOR RESISTANCE STRUGGLE AMONG LOWLAND LAO POPULATION BUT ACTUAL STRENGTH OF THIS POPULAR BACKING REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

(C) LPDR IS OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT RESISTANCE AND IS CONDUCTING LARGE-SCALE MILITARY OPERATIONS TO QUASH IT. WITH ASSISTANCE OF NORTH VIETNAMESE ALLIES, PL TROOPS ARE CAPABLE OF DEALING WITH RESISTANCE MILITARY ACTIVITY WHICH, ALTHOUGH TROUBLESOME, APPEARS FAR FROM POSING DIRECT THREAT TO LPDR'S CONTROL OF COUNTRY. LPDR WILL PROBABLY BE FACED WITH PROBLEM OF ARMED DISSIDENCE FOR LONG TIME TO COME.

(D) RTG IS INVOLVED IN VARIOUS WAYS WITH RESISTANCE ACTIVITIES BUT THIS INVOLVEMENT IS LIMITED TO DATE. RESISTANCE FIGURES CONSTANTLY BADGER SENIOR SECURITY AND MILITARY OFFICIALS IN NORTHEAST FOR MORE ASSISTANCE. SHOULD RTG AGREE TO SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE ASSISTANCE IT SEEMS DOUBTFUL, GIVEN CURRENT MAKE UP OF REPORTED RESISTANCE LEADERSHIP, THAT IT WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE RESISTANCE CHANCES OF THROWING OFF COMMUNIST RULE.

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FINNY

UNQUOTE:
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Remarks:
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